avoid grappling with any of the difficulties which fell in his way, and that he has attempted, by the principles of a deepei philosophy, to confute the wrong conclusions drawn by a superficial philosophy. He has so constructed his work, that the general reader may pass over the more abstract portions (as, for instance, some of the Illustrative Notes) without losing the train of argument.

It is due to the memory of the late Dr. Chalmers to acknowledge, that had not the author enjoyed the inestimable privilege of sitting for four or five sessions at the feet of this illustrious man, in the University of Edinburgh, he would, in all probability, never have had his thoughts directed in the train which he has followed, and have been without the spirit which he has sought to cultivate, as he would certainly have been without not a few of the principles which lie has carried along with him in his investigations. It is with no feeling of presumption that lie thinks it proper to add, that did he not imagine that he has tuome truth to communicate, not contained in the works of Dr. Chalmers, he Bhoukl not have obtruded himself on the public notice, as it could never have occurred to him, that he was able to state the ideas of his eloquent preceptor so clearly or impressively as he has done himself, in. his writings now so extensively circulated.

He has to acknowledge his obligations to Principal Cunningham, to Professor Buchanan, and to the Rev. Dr. Harma, for the kind encouragement which they gave him to proceed with this work, when submitted to them for their counsel; as also to the two last-mentioned gentlemen and the Rev. John Mackenzie, Ratho, for their judicioun assistance in

overlooking the sheets as they passed through the press,

BitEOHiN, *January* 1850.